

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended). A sensor protection circuit for at least one sensor, the protection circuit which comprises:

at least one supply line for supplying current to the sensor;

a current measuring unit for detecting an electric current flowing through said supply line for preventing damage to the sensor from excess voltage; and

said current measuring unit having connected thereto at least one of a current limiting device for limiting the electric current and a circuit element for disconnecting said at least one supply line; and

a separate control input connected to said circuit element, in a case of a short circuit lasting for a predetermined period of time said separate control input driving said circuit

element into a non-conducting state resulting in said at least one supply line being disconnected.

Claim 10 (previously presented). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 9, wherein said supply line monitored by the current measuring unit is a ground line for the sensor.

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (previously presented). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 9, which further comprises a signal line for recording a sensor signal from the sensor.

Claim 13 (previously presented). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 9, which comprises a voltage line and a ground line each connected to and supplying current to the sensor.

Claim 14 (previously presented). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 13, which comprises means for preventing excess voltages connected in at least one of said voltage line, said ground line, and a signal line connected to the sensor.

Claim 15 (previously presented). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 14, wherein said means includes at least one of a Zener diode and at least one capacitor.

Claim 16 (previously presented). The sensor protection circuit according to claim 15, wherein said Zener diode and/or said at least one capacitor is connected between the voltage line or the signal line and the ground line.

Claim 17 (currently amended). ~~The sensor protection circuit according to claim 15, wherein~~ A sensor protection circuit for at least one sensor, the sensor protection circuit comprising:

at least one supply line for supplying current to the sensor, said at least one supply line including a voltage line and a ground line each connected to and supplying the current to the sensor;

a current measuring unit for detecting an electric current flowing through said supply line for preventing damage to the sensor from excess voltage;

said current measuring unit having connected thereto at least one of a current limiting device for limiting the electric

current and a circuit element for disconnecting said at least one supply line;

means for preventing excess voltages connected in at least one of said voltage line, said ground line, and a signal line connected to the sensor, said means having at least one of a Zener diode and at least one capacitor; and

    said sensor ~~comprises~~ containing at least one Zener diode for short circuit protection, and said Zener diode for preventing excess voltages ~~has~~ having a lower breakdown voltage than said Zener diode of said sensor.

Claim 18 (previously presented). In combination with a motor vehicle, a sensor protection circuit for a sensor connected in an electric circuit of the motor vehicle, the sensor protection circuit according to claim 9.